

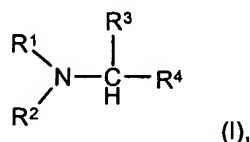
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amended the claims as shown on the attached sheets.

CLAIMS 54172

1. (original) A process for preparing an amine by reacting a primary or secondary alcohol, aldehyde or ketone with hydrogen and a nitrogen compound selected from the group consisting of ammonia and primary and secondary amines in the presence of a catalyst
5 whose preparation has involved precipitation of catalytically active components onto monoclinic, tetragonal or cubic zirconium dioxide.
2. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~the preceding claims~~, wherein the catalytically active components precipitated are salts of a metal selected from transition
10 groups VIII and IB of the Periodic Table.
3. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 2 ~~the preceding claim~~, wherein the metal salts are basic salts which are sparingly soluble or insoluble in water.
- 15 4. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 2 ~~either of the two preceding claims~~, wherein the salts are oxides, hydrated oxides, hydroxides, carbonates and/or hydrogencarbonates.
5. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 2 ~~any of claims 2 to 4~~, wherein the
20 metal is selected from the group consisting of Fe, Co, Ni, Ru, Rh, Pd, Pt and Cu.
6. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 2 ~~any of claims 2 to 4~~, wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of Cu, Ni and Co.
- 25 7. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the catalytically active composition of the catalyst before treatment with hydrogen comprises from 20 to 85% by weight of oxygen-containing compounds of zirconium, calculated as ZrO_2 , from 1 to 30% by weight of oxygen-containing compounds of copper, calculated as CuO , and from 14 to 70% by weight of oxygen-containing compounds of
30 nickel, calculated as NiO .
8. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the catalytically active composition of the catalyst before treatment with hydrogen comprises from 20 to 65% by weight of oxygen-containing compounds of zirconium,
35 calculated as ZrO_2 , from 1 to 30% by weight of oxygen-containing compounds of copper, calculated as CuO , from 15 to 50% by weight of oxygen-containing compounds of nickel, calculated as NiO , and from 15 to 50% by weight of oxygen-containing compounds of cobalt, calculated as CoO .

9. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 5 ~~any of claims 5 to 8~~, wherein the molar ratio of nickel to copper is greater than 1.
10. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the monoclinic, tetragonal or cubic zirconium dioxide contains one or more oxides of metals of transition groups IIIB or main group IIA of the Periodic Table.
11. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the reaction is carried out at from 80 to 300°C.
12. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the reaction is carried out in the liquid phase at pressures of from 5 to 30 MPa or in the gas phase at pressures of from 0.1 to 40 MPa.
13. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ for preparing an amine of the formula I



where

- 20 R^1, R^2 are each hydrogen (H), alkyl such as C_{1-20} -alkyl, cycloalkyl such as C_{3-12} -cycloalkyl, alkoxyalkyl such as C_{2-30} -alkoxyalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl such as C_{3-30} -dialkylaminoalkyl, aryl, aralkyl such as C_{7-20} -aralkyl or alkylaryl such as C_{7-20} -alkylaryl, or together form $-(\text{CH}_2)_j\text{-X-(CH}_2)_k$,
- 25 R^3, R^4 are each hydrogen (H), alkyl such as C_{1-200} -alkyl, cycloalkyl such as C_{3-12} -cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl such as C_{1-20} -hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl such as C_{1-20} -aminoalkyl, hydroxyalkylaminoalkyl such as C_{2-20} -hydroxyalkylaminoalkyl, alkoxyalkyl such as C_{2-30} -alkoxyalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl such as C_{3-30} -dialkylaminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl such as C_{2-30} -alkylaminoalkyl, $\text{R}^5\text{-(OCR}^6\text{R}^7\text{CR}^8\text{R}^9)_n\text{-(OCR}^6\text{R}^7)$, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl such as C_{7-20} -aralkyl, heteroarylalkyl such as C_{4-20} -heteroarylalkyl, alkylaryl such as C_{7-20} -alkylaryl, alkylheteroaryl such as C_{4-20} -alkylheteroaryl or $\text{Y-(CH}_2)_m\text{-NR}^5\text{-(CH}_2)_q$, or

together form $-(CH_2)_l-X-(CH_2)_m-$, or

R^2 and R^4 together form $-(CH_2)_l-X-(CH_2)_m-$,

R^5, R^{10} are each hydrogen (H), alkyl such as C_{1-4} -alkyl or alkylphenyl such as C_{7-40} -alkylphenyl,

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R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9 are each hydrogen (H), methyl or ethyl,

X is CH_2 , CHR^5 , oxygen (O), sulfur (S) or NR^5 ,

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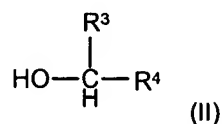
Y is $N(R^{10})_2$, hydroxy, C_{2-20} -alkylaminoalkyl or C_{3-20} -dialkylaminoalkyl,

n is an integer from 1 to 30 and

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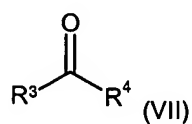
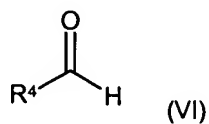
j, k, l, m, q are each an integer from 1 to 4,

by reacting a primary or secondary alcohol of the formula II



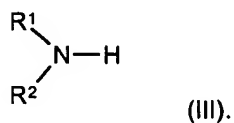
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or aldehyde or ketone of the formula VI or VII



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with a nitrogen compound of the formula III



14. (canceled)